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Attachment #2

8 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL LANSDALE

From: Robert A. Hurwitch (State) and Don Wilson (USIA)
Subject: Joint State-USIA Memorandum

State and USIA have considered the political pros and cons of the 10 best locations for medium-wave transmitters. We rate them in the following order:

1. Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic would probably welcome such an opportunity. They are currently unhappy about Cuban broadcasts and would most likely be pleased to retaliate. A station in the Dominican Republic would have a Latin American cover, although it would have more of a taint of U.S. - Yankee influence than in Venezuela. It should be pointed out that the Council of State is scheduled to go out of office in December. Any successor to it might not be as enthusiastic about such a station.

2. Venezuela

This would be a very desirable choice because the Betancourt Government would provide highly acceptable cover for the station. The precarious position of the Government, however, makes it quite unlikely that Betancourt would agree to establishing the station in Venezuela, for it would gratuitously provide ammunition for his political opposition.

3. Jamaica/Cayman Islands

Despite its anti-Castro policies, the attitude of the newly independent Jamaican Government to such a project would probably be negative. The presence of many thousands of Jamaicans in Cuba would be a major factor affecting a Jamaican commitment of this kind.

4. Honduras

A station here would have a Latin American cover in a country that has a reasonably democratic tradition. However, the likelihood of the Honduran Government agreeing to the establishment of the station in Honduras before the elections in October 1963 is very remote.

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5. Nassau/British Honduras/Gr. Abaco/Gr. Bahama Islands

A commitment by the British to such a broadcast facility would be very desirable politically. The involvement of a major NATO power would have beneficial effects throughout the Hemisphere. However, the possibility of British commitment to such a broadcast facility is practically nil.

6. Nicaragua

The image of Nicaragua as a long-time dictatorship would make this a most undesirable site. The credibility of a broadcasting station located in Nicaragua would be almost totally under-cut from its inception. The Nicaraguan Government would probably welcome such an opportunity, however.

7. Navassa/Puerto Rico

As U.S. territory, both these alternatives would bear the same general liabilities as a location in Florida.

8. Swan Island

We reject the consideration of Swan Island outright, because its credibility has been totally under-cut by its association in the minds of the Cubans with the April 1961 invasion failure.

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